

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15373 01 OF 03 122354Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 15373

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, FR
SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' CONSULTATIONS
WITH QUAI

REF: STATE 117426/1

1. SUMMARY: ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) MAYNES HELD HIGHLY USEFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH GOF MAY 10 COVERING VIRTUALLY ALL POINTS IN REFTEL BRIEFING MATERIAL FROM DEPARTMENT. NOTABLE WAS FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO , UNDERTAKE, OR AT LEAST CONSIDER, GOF DEMARCHES SUGGESTED BY MAYNES, SPECIFICALLY WITH FRIENDLY FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES REGARDING NON-ALIGNED GROUP, WITH ANGOLANS REGARDING NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, AND EVEN -- POSSIBLY -- WITH CHINA REGARDING CAMBODIAN HUMAN RIGHTS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THESE CONSULTATIONS INDICATIVE OF CLOSEST US-FRENCH COORDINATION ON UN AFFAIRS WE HAVE WITNESSED FOR MANY YEARS. WE URGE CONTINUED EXCHANGES AND CONSULTATIONS AT APPROXIMATELY HALF YEARLY INTERVALS.

2. FOLLOWING REPORT COVERING HIGHLIGHTS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY (IO) MAYNES' MAY 10 CONSULTATIONS WAS NOT CLEARED WITH HIM. MAYNES WAS RECEIVED AT THE QUAI FIRST BY POLITICAL DIRECTOR MERILLON, AND THEN BY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 15373 01 OF 03 122354Z

UN DIRECTOR LECOMPT WHO PRESIDED OVER A ROUNDTABLE IN WHICH ALL INTERESTED DIVISIONS OF QUAI PARTICIPATED.

3. UN REFORM. SINCE MERILLON WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING UN REFORM, MAYNES EXPLAINED THAT USG WAS EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF UNSC HOLDING CLOSED SESSIONS, AND ALSO SESSIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTER

LEVEL ON BASIS SECRETARY GENERAL REPORTS. AFTER NONCOMITTAL REPLY REGARDING THOSE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS, MERILLON LED INTO LENGTHY AND EMPHATIC REJECTION OF ANYTHING WHICH COULD RESULT IN REVISION OF UN CHARTER. MERILLON REVIEWED HISTORY OF FRENCH EXPERIENCE IN UN, MENTIONING THAT PRESIDENT GISCARD'S PARTICIPATION AT UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMEMENT (SSOD) THIS MONTH SHOWS UNPRECEDENTED DEGREE OF GOF INTEREST IN UN. AT SAME TIME GOF REMAINS WEDDED TO ORIGINAL CHARTER PROVISIONS, SPECIFICALLY TO PRESERVE, AND NOT WATER DOWN. FRENCH PERMANENT UNSC STAT- US, MERILLON CONCLUDED. WHEN MAYNES INDICATED THAT USG IS ONLY OPEN-MINDED IN THE SENSE OF WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER REVISION WHICH WOULD BE ENTIRELY ADVANTAGEOUS, MERILLON UNDERLINED THAT FRANCE IS ENTIRELY OPPOSED TO CHARTER REVISION. CALL ON MERILLON CONCLUDED WITH MAYNES URGING GOF TO CONSIDER INCREASING VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS -- AS WAY OF OBTAINING LEVERAGE OVER UN SYSTEM.

4. CYPRUS INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. MAYNES TOUCHED ON POINTS IN REFTEL PARA 6, ENPHASINZING THAT USG IS URGING SYG TO GET INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS STARTED AGAIN AND WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE 3 TO 5 YEARS BEFORE THERE IS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY. ON THIS MATTER THE FRENCH DID NOT PICK UP MAYNES' SUGGESTION THAT OTHER DMARCHES
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PAGE 03 PARIS 15373 01 OF 03 122354Z

MIGHT BE HELPFUL. GOF SEES NO REASON TO INSERT ITSELF IN THE PROCESS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE I T IS LESS PESSIMISTIC THAN USG ABOUT RELAUNCHING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AT A LATER DATE BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT JUDGES TURKISH PROPOSALS AS INSUFFICIENT. FRENCH NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING PRECISELY WHAT SYG FEELS ABOUT THIS. MAYNES CLOSED BY STRSSING THAT GREEK CYPRIOTS SHOULD COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT IN THEIR INTEREST TO REFUSE TALKS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15373 02 OF 03 122340Z
ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 PARIS 15373

5. UNFICYP FINANCING. PICKING UP WHAT HE HAD SAID TO POLITICAL DIRECTOR MERILLON ABOUT ADVANTAGES OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, MAYNES EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT QUAI WAS REPORTEDLY PROPOSING A CONTRIBUTION TO UNFICYP FOR FORTHCOMING GOF BUDGET. LECOMPT SAID QUAI REALIZES THAT SINCE IT HAS ARTICULATE POLICY REGARDING CYPRUS, FRANCE SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO UNFICYP; HE EXPRESSED FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT NEW FACTOR PRESENTED BY FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL MIGHT BE DETRIMENTAL TO FINAL APPROVAL OF UNFICYP CONTRIBUTION WHEN PROPOSED BUDGET IS DETERMINED BY GOF.

6. NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM). IN CONTEXT OF POINTS IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL, MAYNES LED UP TO IDEA OF GOF USING ITS INFLUENCE AMONG FRIENDLY NAM MEMBERS AGAINST CUBAN LEADERSHIP ASPIRATIONS IN THE MOVEMENT. LECOMPT REPLIED THAT FRANCE DEFINITELY COUNTS CUBA AS PART OF THE SOVIET, RATHER THAN THE NON-ALIGNED, GROUP AND HE THOUGHT MAYNES' SUGGESTION WAS A GOOD ONE. WHILE POINTING OUT THAT SOME OF THE COUNTRIES ON WHICH GOF HAS INFLUENCE ARE NOT INFLUENTIAL WITHIN NAM, LECOMPT PROMISED THAT QUAI WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF MAKING APPROPRIATE CONTACT ON THIS MATTER WITH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 15373 02 OF 03 122340Z

SELECTED NAM MEMBERS.

7. LEBANON. MAYNES BRIEF QUAI PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR SERVANT, ON BASIS STATE 117862 REGARDING US THINKING AND EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 425 ESTABLISHING UNIFIL. HE ADDED PRAISE FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL AND EMPHASIZED US DETERMINATION NOT ONLY TO MAKE UNIFIL WORK BUT TO INSIST ON UNCONDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. SERVANT INSISTENTLY PROBED AS TO WHETHER USG BELIEVES GOI WILL IN FACT WITHDRAW FULLY. HE SEEMED GENERALLY CONTENT WITH MAYNES' POSITIVE REPLY.

RESPONDING TO SERVANT'S SPECIFIC QUESTIONING ON THIS POINT, MAYNES SAID BEGIN HAD PROMISED TO SEEK A SPECIFIC GOF HAS INFLUENCE ARE NOT INFLUENTIAL WITHIN NAM, LECOMPT PROMISED THAT QUAI WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF MAKING APPROPRIATE CONTACT ON THIS MATTER WITH SELECTED NAM MEMBERS.

7. LEBANON. MAYNES BRIEF QUAI PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING MIDDLE EAST DIRECTOR SERVANT, ON BASIS STATE 117862 REGARDING US THINKING AND EFFORTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RESOLUTION 425 ESTABLISHING UNIFIL. HE ADDED PRAISE FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL AND EMPHASIZED US DETERMINATION NOT ONLY TO MAKE UNIFIL WORK BUT TO INSIST ON UNCONDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON. SERVANT INSISTENTLY PROBED AS TO WHETHER USG BELIEVES GOI WILL IN FACT WITHDRAW FULLY. HE SEEMED GENERALLY CONTENT WITH MAYNES' POSITIVE REPLY. RESPONDING TO SERVANT'S SPECIFIC QUESTIONING ON THIS POINT, MAYNES SAID BEGIN HAD PROMISED TO SEEK A SPECIFIC DATE FOR TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND THAT SECRETARY HAD BEEN ADAMANT THAT SUCH WITHDRAWAL MUST BE UNCONDITIONAL. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 15373 02 OF 03 122340Z

LECOMPT, WHO IS SHORTLY TO BECOME QUAI DIRECTOR FOR MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, MOVED ON TO OTHER ASPECTS OF UNIFIL. HE CONSIDERED IT UNFORTUNATE THAT GOL HAS NOT PROFITTED FROM EXISTENCE OF UNIFIL TO ESTABLISH ITSELF IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. LECOMPT SAID GOF IS PREPARED TO URGE PRESIDENT SARKIS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, AND MAYNES INDICATED THAT USG COULD TAKE SIMILAR POSITION. EXCHANGE BETWEEN MAYNES AND SERVANT REGARDING FRENCH QUESTIONS ON CIVIL POLICE UNITS REPORTED SEPTTEL (PARIS 15051).

8. OVERVIEW MECHANISM. MAYNES SAID THAT UNDER SECRETARY COOPER LOOKS FORWARD TO THE HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH WE WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY. HE CHARACTERIZED THIS AS AN IRREVERSIBLE PROCESS BUT SAID THE OUTCOME IS UNPREDICTABLE. LECOMPT SAID THIS COMMITTEE IS ONE WHERE ENTIRELY SERIOUS PEOPLE ACT IN A MOST UNSERIOUS MANNER. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN SOME PROGRESS ON THE DEBT ITEM DURING MARCH AND THOUGHT THERE WERE SOME GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM; ON THE OTHER HAND UNIFIL. HE CONSIDERED IT UNFORTUNATE THAT GOL HAS NOT PROFITTED FROM EXISTENCE OF UNIFIL TO ESTABLISH ITSELF IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. LECOMPT SAID GOF IS PREPARED TO URGE PRESIDENT SARKIS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, AND MAYNES INDICATED THAT USG COULD TAKE SIMILAR POSITION. EXCHANGE BETWEEN MAYNES AND SERVANT REGARDING FRENCH QUESTIONS ON CIVIL POLICE UNITS REPORTED SEPTTEL

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PARIS 15373 02 OF 03 122340Z

PROGRESS ON THE DEBT ITEM DURING MARCH AND THOUGHT THERE WERE SOME GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM; ON THE OTHER HAND UNIFIL. HE CONSIDERED IT UNFORTUNATE THAT GOL HAS NOT PROFITTED FROM EXISTENCE OF UNIFIL TO ESTABLISH ITSELF IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. LECOMPT SAID GOF IS PREPARED TO URGE PRESIDENT SARKIS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, AND MAYNES INDICATED THAT USG COULD TAKE SIMILAR POSITION. EXCHANGE BETWEEN MAYNES AND SERVANT REGARDING FRENCH QUESTIONS ON CIVIL POLICE UNITS REPORTED SEPTTEL (PARIS 15051).

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9. NAMIBIA. ON THE BASIS OF THE POINTS ON NAMIBIA IN REFTTEL, MAYNES CONCLUDED THAT THIS IS A REMARKABLE EFFORT AT COLLECTIVE DIPLOMACY, ALTHOUGH IT COULD STILL BE A FAILURE. HAREL, ASSISTANT TO QUAI DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AGREED WITH THE US ANALYSIS. HE WONDERED WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT SIMPLY BE PUTTING ITSELF IN THE BEST POSITION TO HAVE NAMIBIA CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 PARIS 15373 02 OF 03 122340Z

DECLARE UNILATERAL INDEPENDENCE, PERHAPS BASED ON CHARGES OF COLLUSION BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE WESTERN 5. HE SUGGESTED SWAPO MIGHT USEFULLY MAKE A GESTURE REGARDING SECURITY CONDITIONS IN NAMIBIA. HAREL TOOK NOTE OF A SUGGESTION BY MAYNES TO THE EFFECT THAT FRANCE MIGHT USEFULLY POINT OUT TO ANGOLA THAT THE RECENT SOUTH AFRICAN RAID HAS ACTUALLY HURT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THAT THIS EXPERIENCE MAKES IT ALL THE MORE IMPERATIVE TO SUPPORT THE WESTERN 5 PLAN. IN ADDITION TO INDICATING THAT THIS MIGHT BE A TIME TO EXERT APPROPRIATE INFLUENCE, HAREL

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PAGE 01 PARIS 15373 03 OF 03 130014Z
ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 PARIS 15373

UNDERLINED HIS OWN PROPOSAL TO THE EFFECT THAT THE UN BUFFER-ROLE BE BEEFED UP (BOTH IN MEN AND IN AREA, PRISUMALBLHY).

10. HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA. MAYNES STRESSED THE DIFFICULTY OF FINDING ANY WAY TO HELP IN FACE OF THE GRAVE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA; HE ASKED IF GOF HAD ANY IDEAS. THE FRENCH ASID THEY HAD HEARD NOTHING NEW REGARDING THE CAMBODIAN REPLY TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND FELT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF INFLUENCING CAMBODIA DIRECTLY SINCE POLITIZATION OF THE PROBLEM WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. MAYNES SUGGESTED THAT INTERESTED COUNTRIES MIGHT SPEAK PRIVATELY TO THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. THE FRENCH UNDERTOOK TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO RAISING THIS MATTER WITH PEKING.

11. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LESS THAN 2 HOURS WAS DEVOTED

TO HESE CONSULTATIONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES WAS
ABLE TO COVER MOST OF THE EXTENSIVE GROUND IN REFTEL.
THIS WAS CLEARLY DUE TO THE EXCELLENT ATMOSPHERE OF
MUTUAL CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION WHICH THESE REGULAR
EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PARIS
REGARDING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION POLICIES HAS
GENERATED. IT APPARENTLY ALSO REFLECTS OPTIMUM WORKING
RELATIONS WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR LEPRETTE IN NEW YORK,
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PAGE 02 PARIS 15373 03 OF 03 130014Z

WHICH THE EMBASSY HIGHLY COMMENDS. THIS COINCIDES
USEFULLY WITH A PERIOD IN WHICH FRANCE IS TAKING THE
MOST ACTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UN IN THE LAST 20
YEARS. PRESIDENT GISCARD'S ATTENDANCE AT THE UN SSOD
THIS MONTH APPEARS TO CLOSE AN ERA OF GOF
NEGATIVISM WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED BY PRESIDENT DE
GAULLE REFERRING TO THE UN AS "LE MACHIN". ALTHOUGH
US AND FRENCH POSITIONS ARE NOT ALWAYS ALIGNED, AS
EXEMPLIFIED BY THE SSOD, IT IS CLEARLY TO OUR
ADVANTAGE TO ENCOURAGE FRANCE'S NEW POSITIVE ATTITUDE
BY INTENSIFYING THESE SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS.
OUTGOING AMBASSADOR TO CONGO BERTRAND DUFOURCQ WILL
SUCCEED LECOMPT AS QUAI UN DIRECTOR IN JUNE, AND
MEANWHILE WILL ATTEND SSOD. SUGGEST USUN, AND IF
POSSIBLE MAYNES, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF DUFOURCQ'S PRESENCE
IN NEW YORK TO SEEK HIM OUT, ESTABLISH RAPPORT, AND
LAY GROUNDWORK FOR NEXT US-FRENCH UN CONSULTATIONS
WHICH WOULD NORMALLY BE HELD IN US PRIOR TO FALL UNGA.
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